

PERKINS ACT OF 1998

TITLE II – TECH-PREP EDUCATION

SECTION 201. SHORT TITLE.

This title may be cited as the “Tech-Prep Education Act.”

SECTION 202. DEFINITIONS.

(a) In this title:

(1) ARTICULATION AGREEMENT. – The term “articulation agreement” means a written commitment to a program designed to provide students with a non duplicative sequence of progressive achievement leading to degrees or certificates in a tech-prep education program.

(2) COMMUNITY COLLEGE. – The term “community college” –

(A) means an institution of higher education, as defined in section 101 of the Higher Education Act of 1965, that provides not less than a 2-year program that is acceptable for full credit toward a bachelor’s degree; and

(B) includes tribally controlled colleges or universities.

(3) TECH-PREP PROGRAM. – The term “tech-prep program” means a program of study that-

(A) combines at a minimum 2 years of secondary education (as determined under State Law) with a minimum of 2 years of postsecondary education in a nonduplicative, sequential course of study;

(B) integrates academic, and vocational and technical, instruction, and utilizes work-based and worksite learning where appropriate and available;

(C) provides technical preparation in a career field such as engineering technology, applied science, a mechanical, industrial, or practical art or trade, agriculture, health occupations, business, or applied economics;

(D) builds students competence in mathematics, science, reading, writing, communications, economics, and workplace skills through applied, contextual academics, and integrated instruction, in a coherent sequence of courses;

(E) leads to an associate or a baccalaureate degree or a postsecondary certificate in a specific career field; and

(F) leads to placement in appropriate employment or to further education.

1 **SECTION 203. STATE ALLOTMENT AND APPLICATION.**

2 (a) IN GENERAL. – For any fiscal year, the Secretary shall allot the amount made available under section 206
3 among the States in the same manner as funds are allotted to States under paragraph (2) of section 111(a).

4 (b) PAYMENTS TO ELIGIBLE AGENCIES. – The Secretary shall make a payment in the amount of a State’s allot-
5 ment under subsection (a) to the eligible agency that serves the State and has an application approved
6 under subsection (c).

7 (c) STATE APPLICATION. – Each eligible agency desiring assistance under this title shall submit an application to
8 the Secretary at such time, in such a manner, and accompanied by such information as the Secretary may require.
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10 **SECTION 204. TECH-PREP EDUCATION.**

11 (a) GRANT PROGRAM AUTHORIZED. –

12 (1) IN GENERAL. – From amounts made available to each eligible agency under section 203, the eligible
13 agency, in accordance with the provisions of this title, shall award grants, on a competitive basis or on
14 the basis of a formula determined by the eligible agency, for tech-prep education programs described in
15 Subsection (c). The grants shall be awarded to consortia between or among –

16 (A) a local educational agency, an intermediate educational agency or area vocational and techni-
17 cal education school serving secondary school students, or a secondary school funded by the Bureau
18 of Indian Affairs; and

19 (B)(i) a nonprofit institution of higher education that offers –

20 (I) a 2-year associate degree program, or a 2-year certificate program, and is qualified as insti-
21 tuitions of higher education pursuant to section 102 of the Higher Education Act of 1965, includ-
22 ing an institution receiving assistance under the Tribally Controlled College or University
23 Assistance Act of 1978 (25 U.S.C. 1801 et seq.) and a tribally controlled postsecondary vocational
24 and technical institution; or

25 (II) a 2-year apprenticeship program that follows secondary instruction, if such nonprofit insti-
26 tution of higher education is not prohibited from receiving assistance under part B of title IV of
27 the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1071 et seq.) pursuant to the provisions of section
28 435(a)(3) of such Act (20 U.S.C. 1083(a)); or

29 (ii) a proprietary institution of higher education that offers a 2-year associate degree program
30 and is qualified as an institution of higher education pursuant to section 102 of the Higher Education
31 Act of 1965, if such proprietary institution of higher education is not subject to a default manage-

ment plan required by the Secretary.

(2) SPECIAL RULE. – In addition, a consortium described in paragraph (1) may include 1 or more –

(A) institutions of higher education that award a baccalaureate degree; and

(B) employer or labor organizations.

(b) DURATION. – Each grant recipient shall use amounts provided under the grant to develop and operate a 4- or 6-year tech-prep education program described in subsection (c).

(c) CONTENTS OF TECH-PREP PROGRAM. – Each tech-prep program shall –

(1) be carried out under an articulation agreement between the participants in the consortium;

(2) consist of at least 2 years of secondary school preceding graduation and 2 years or more of higher education, or an apprenticeship program of at least 2 years following secondary instruction, with a common core of required proficiency in mathematics, science, reading, writing, communications, and technologies designed to lead to an associate's degree or a postsecondary certificate in a specific career field;

(3) include the development of tech-prep programs for both secondary and postsecondary, including consortium, participants in the consortium that –

(A) meets academic standards developed by the State;

(B) links secondary schools and 2-year postsecondary institutions, and if possible and practicable, 4-year institutions of higher education through nonduplicative sequences of courses in career fields, including the investigation of opportunities for tech-prep secondary students to enroll concurrently in secondary and postsecondary coursework;

(C) uses, if appropriate and available, work-based or worksite learning in conjunction with business and all aspects of an industry; and

(D) uses educational technology and distance learning, as appropriate, to involve all the consortium partners more fully in the development and operation of programs;

(4) include in-service training for teachers that –

(A) is designed to train vocational and technical teachers to effectively implement tech-prep programs;

(B) provides for joint training for teachers in the tech-prep consortium;

(C) is designed to ensure that teachers and administrators stay current with the needs, expectations, and methods of business and all aspects of an industry;

(D) focuses on training postsecondary education faculty in the use of contextual and applied curricula and instruction; and

(E) provides training in the use and application of technology;

- (5) include training programs for counselors designed to enable counselors to more effectively –
- (A) provide information to students regarding tech-prep education programs;
 - (B) support student progress in completing tech-prep programs;
 - (C) provide information on related employment opportunities;
 - (D) ensure that such students are placed in appropriate employment; and
 - (E) stay current with the needs, expectations, and methods of business and all aspects of an industry;
- (6) provide equal access, to the full range of technical preparation programs, to individuals who are members of special population, including the development of tech-prep program services appropriate to the needs of special populations; and
- (7) provide for preparatory services that assist participants in tech-prep programs.
- (d) ADDITIONAL AUTHORIZED ACTIVITIES. – Each tech-prep program may –
- (1) provide for the acquisition of tech-prep program equipment;
 - (2) acquire technical assistance from State or local entities that have designed, established, and operated tech-prep programs that have effectively used educational technology and distance learning in the delivery of curricula and services and in the articulation process; and
 - (3) establish articulation agreements with institutions of higher education, labor organizations, or businesses located inside or outside the State and served by the consortium, especially with regard to using distance learning and educational technology to provide for the delivery of services and programs.

SECTION 205. CONSORTIUM APPLICATIONS.

- (a) IN GENERAL. – Each consortium that desires to receive a grant under this title shall submit an application to the eligible agency at such time and in such a manner as the eligible agency shall prescribe.
- (b) PLAN. – Each application submitted under this section shall contain a 5-year plan for the development and implementation of tech-prep under this title, which plan shall be reviewed after the second year of the plan.
- (c) APPROVAL. – The eligible agency shall approve applications based on the potential of the activities described in the application to create an effective tech-prep program.
- (d) SPECIAL CONSIDERATION. – The eligible agency, as appropriate, shall give special consideration to applications that –
- (1) provide for effective employment placement activities or the transfer of students to baccalaureate degree programs;

(2) are developed in consultation with business, industry, institutions of higher education, and labor organization;

(3) address effectively the issues of school dropout prevention and reentry and the needs of special populations;

(4) provide education and training in areas or skills in which there are significant workforce shortages, including the information technology industry; and

(5) demonstrate how tech-prep programs will help students meet high academic and employability competencies.

(e) **EQUITABLE DISTRIBUTION OF ASSISTANCE.** – In awarding grants under this title, the eligible agency shall ensure an equitable distribution of assistance between urban and rural consortium participants.

SECTION 206. REPORT.

Each eligible agency that receives a grant under this title annually shall prepare and submit to the Secretary a report on the effectiveness of the tech-prep programs assisted under this title, including a description of how grants were awarded within the State.

SECTION 207. DEMONSTRATION PROGRAM.

(a) **DEMONSTRATION PROGRAM AUTHORIZED.** – From funds appropriated under subsection (e) for a fiscal year, the Secretary shall award grants to consortia described in section 204(a) to enable the consortia to carry out tech-prep education programs.

(b) **PROGRAM CONTENTS.** – Each tech-prep program referred to in subsection (a) –

(1) shall –

(A) involve the location of a secondary school on the site of a community college;

(B) involve a business as a member of the consortium; and

(C) require the voluntary participation of secondary school students in the tech-prep education program; and

(2) may provide summer internships at a business for students or teachers.

(c) **APPLICATION.** – Each consortium desiring a grant under this section shall submit an application to the Secretary at such time, in such manner and accompanied by such information as the Secretary may require.

(d) **APPLICABILITY.** – The provisions of sections 203, 204, 205, and 206 shall not apply to this section, except that –

1 (1) the provisions of section 204(a) shall apply for purposes of describing consortia eligible to receive
2 assistance under this section;

3 (2) each tech-prep education program assisted under this section shall meet the requirements of
4 paragraphs (1), (2), (3)(A), (3)(B), (3)(C), (3)(D), (4), (5), (6), and (7) of section 204(c), except that such para-
5 graph (3)(B) shall be applied by striking “, and if possible and practicable, 4-year institutions of higher
6 education through nonduplicative sequences of courses in career fields”; and

7 (3) in awarding grants under this section, the Secretary shall give special consideration to consortia
8 submitting applications under subsection (c) that meet the requirements of paragraphs (1), (3), (4), and
9 (5) of section 205(d), except that such paragraph (1) shall be applied by striking “or the transfer of stu-
10 dents to baccalaureate degree programs.”

11 (e) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS. – There is authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section
12 \$25,000,000 for fiscal year 1999 and each of the 4 succeeding fiscal years.

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14 **SECTION 208. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**

15 There is authorized to be appropriated to carry out this title (other than section 207) such sums as may
16 be necessary for fiscal year 1999 and each of the 4 succeeding fiscal years.